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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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DATE MAILED:

1/19/01

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of this application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

- ☒ This communication is responsive to BRIEF FILED 11/13/00
- ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-1 87-10 CLAIMS 1-8
- ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are acceptable as formal drawings.
- ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- ☒ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
- ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE FOR SUBMITTING NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS, OR A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION. This three-month period for complying with the REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL is extendable under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

- ☐ Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION, PTO-152, which discloses that the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.
- ☐ Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS
- ☐ because the originally filed drawings were declared by applicant to be informal.
- ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948, attached hereto or to Paper No. _____
- ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed on _____, which has been approved by the examiner.
- ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings.

- ☐ Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any reply to this notice should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for the Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

GREGORY DELCOTTO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

#14/10

Application/Control Number: 09/341979

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brant Cook on January 25, 2001.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

The Claims:

In claim 1, line 1, delete "~~comprising~~" and insert "~~consisting of~~".

In claim 1, line 3, delete "~~comprising~~" and insert "~~consisting of~~".

Cancel claim ~~5~~.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Note that, Applicant's arguments and the Examiner's amendment are sufficient to place the instant claims in condition for allowance. In a telephone interview with Applicant on January 25, 2001, Applicant stated that there was a possibility that a Continued Prosecution Application may be filed in this case before payment of the issue fee so that Applicant would have an opportunity to pursue broader claims than currently being allowed.

Of the references of record, the most pertinent are Surutzidis et al (US 5,858,950) and Naik (US 5,387,373).

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Naik teaches a stable aqueous detergent composition in liquid or gel form containing from 10% to 80% by weight of an active detergent mixture comprising primary alkyl sulphate in an amount of 15% to 75% by weight of the active detergent plus betaine and/or amine oxide in an amount of 10% to 40% by weight of the active detergent mixture. See Abstract. Note that, all of the examples require the presence of an alkyl sulphate surfactant. See column 8, lines 10-55.

However, "consisting of" as now recited by the instant claims excludes the use of alkyl sulphate surfactants as required in the compositions taught and suggested by Naik.

Surutzidis et al teach liquid detergent compositions containing a branched anionic surfactant. These compositions are low sudsing and have improved hydrophobic greasy soil removal performance. See Abstract. Note that, all of the examples of Surutzidis et al teach compositions containing fatty alcohol ethoxylates, fatty acid, etc., amongst other components.

However, Surutzidis et al does not suggest nor would one of ordinary skill in the art be directed or motivated based on the teaching of Surutzidis et al to formulate cleaning compositions containing only water, branched alkyl ethoxylate surfactants, and amine oxide surfactants as now recited by the instant claims.

None of the references of record, alone or in combination, teach or suggest liquid detergent compositions consisting of water, alkyl alkoxy sulfate branched chain surfactant, and an amine oxide surfactant in the specific proportions as recited by the instant claims. Accordingly, since the prior art fails to teach such a composition and method of using such a composition to clean dishes as recited by the instant claims, the instant claims are deemed allowable.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory R. Del Cotto whose telephone number is (703) 308-2519. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday from 9:30AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra Gupta, can be reached on (703) 308-4708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-3599.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

GRD
January 24, 2001

GREGORY DELCOTTO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

